

## By the Quene,



**T**he Quenes most excellent Maiestie, amongst other great and wayghthe consultations had at sundry tymes with her counsaile, and somtymes with other wise and expert men, for the reformation of such abuses as be thought hurtfull to the common weale of this her Realme, hath founde by consente of all sortes of wise men, that nothyng is so greuous, ne lykely to disturbe and decaye the state and good order of this Realme, as the suffraunce of the base monies, being of dyuers standerdes and mixtures, to be so abundantly currant within this Realme, which haue ben coyned in the same, before her Maiesties raigne, and no parte sence: Nor contrarywise anye one thyng so profitable, or in short tyme to be so comfortable for al maner of people, as to haue in place of the same base and copper monies, fine and good sterlyng monyes of syluer and golde. For her Maiestie well perceiueth, by the long suffraunce of the sayde base and copper monyes, not onely her Crowne, Nobilitie, and subiectes of this her Realme, to be dayly more and more impoueryshed, the auncient and singuler honour and estimaciō, which this Realme of Eng-lande had beyond all other, by plentye of monies, of golde, and syluer, onely fine and not base, is hereby decayed and banished a way: but also by reason of these sayde base monyes, great quantitie of forged and counterfaites haue ben and be dayly made and brought from beyonde the seas, for the which the auncient fine golde and syluer, and the riche marchaundise of this Realme is transported and dayly carped out of the same, to the impoueryshyng therof, and en-rychyng of others. And finally hereby all maner of prices of thynges in this Realme, necessarye for sustentacion of the people, growe dayly excessive to the lamentable and manifeste hurte and oppression of the state, speciallye of Pen-sioners, souldyers, and all hyred seruauntes, and other meane people that lyue by any kynde of wages, and not by rentes of landes, or trade of marchaundyse.

For reformation wherof, to the great honour and estimacion of this Crowne and kyngdome, the recovery & stay of the treasure of this Realme, the reliefe and comfote of all that be herewith oppressed: Her Maiestie hath after great deliberacion had, with such as in these cases be wisest and most expert men, determined by aduise of her counsaile, with the easiest and lyghtest burder of all maner sortes of people, to abolyse the sayde corrupte, base, and copper monyes, and to restore the owners therof to fine monyes, of as good syluer and golde, as at anye tyme hath ben in this Realme, and to haue al the monyes of this Realme to be of one sorte of finenesse, riches, and goodnes, as may be a treasure of estimacion. For which purpose, Her Maiestie meanyng fyrste to haue all the base and copper monyes of the Realme reduced, as nygh to theyr values as may be: doth by aduise of her counsaile, ordeyne, proclayme and value the base monyes coyned and nowe currant within this Realme, beyng not counterfaict, immediatly after this present Proclamacion made, to be currant at the values hereafter folowynge, and not aboue.

The peece of base monye of a peny, to be hereafter currant for and at one halfe peny farthyng. The peece of two pence, for and at three halfe pence. The Teston of sixe pence, to be currant for and at four pence halfe peny: saving and exceptyng a certayne of moste base sortes of Testons, being by estimacion not aboue the sixte part of the numbre of the whole base Testons, coyned within this Realme, and marked in the byppermost part of the sayde Teston in the border therof on both sydes the Teston, with one of these foure kyndes of markes, that is, eyther of a Lion, a Rose, a Harp, or a floure de luce, which Testons be so base and full of copper, as is easy to be sene and vnderstande, & differ so much in value from al the rest of the base Testons, that they cannot, without great inconuenience to the Realme, by reason of the multitude of counterfaictours, beare any conuenient or lyke value as the others do. And therfore her Maiestie by lyke aduise ordeyneth, that euery of the same Testons so marked with any of the foresayde foure markes, shall from henceforth be taken as currant for two pence farthyng, and no more, beyng the same as much as they be proued to conteyne in value, and so to continue as currant monye onely duryng the space of foure monethes hereafter. And for the reliefe of such persons as shall possesse any of them: Her Maiestie is pleased of her mere goodnesse to susteyne the burden, and cause not onely to be deliuered at her mint in London, at any time within the sayd space of the sayde foure monethes, for euery of the sayd Testons so marked, the summe of two pence farthyng, of good new sterlyng monyes of fine syluer, or so much more as any of the same shalbe proued to conteyne in good syluer: But



also for every pounce of the same being brought to her mynt, ouer and aboue the sayde rate, thre pence of good sterling syluer. And for the speedy conuerting of the other foresayde base monyes into fine monies: Her Maiestie is also pleased to geue at her sayde mynt in London for every of the sayde peeces, so much good sterling monyes of fine syluer, after the rate as they be nowe by this Proclamation rated, valued, and made currant. And for the more spede to be vsed also in the conuersion therof, and thereby the full abolyshing of all maner of the sayde base monies: Her Maiestie is pleased to beare the charge, and to geue further in rewarde to the byngers therof, for every twenty myllinges of them so brought to the sayde mynt, and exchaunged, thre pence of lyke good fine monyes.

And for the better execution hereof, her Maiestie straghtly chargeth and warneth al maner of persons to obserue all former lawes & orders, prouyded agaynst such, as to the greate hurte of the common weale, shall carry, conceale, or consent to the carrying out of this Realme, or melting of any maner monyes eyther base or fine, currant within the same: upon payne as in former lawes & orders hath ben and is prouyded, accordyng to the qualitie or excelle of the fault, to be further punyshed, wherof her Maiestie meaneth to haue straight and seuer execution, as of a crime that is directly agaynst her Maiesties Crowne and dignitie, and hurtfull to all the whole bodie of the common weale. And because it may be, that the knowledge and vnderstandyng of the foresayd base Testons, being marked with the sayde markes, may be so doubtfull, by reason the markes be but small, and may be partly woyn out: It is ordered, that upon any controuersie therof arrysing within any citie or towne corporate, or within any market towne not corporate, or within any other paryshe, the same shall be thus ended and determined. That is, in euery Citie or towne corporate, by the Mayor, Alderman, Priouost, Baylyffes, or any other that is by the same corporation the principall officer of the same. And in euery market towne not corporate, by the Iustices of the peace there resydyng, yf any such be, or els by the Curate of the principall Church, and the chiefe officer or baylyffe of the toll of the same market. And in euery other paryshe, eyther by the Iustice of the peace, yf any resyde within one myle, or elles by the Curate of the parishe and the two Constables, or headborowes, or any two of them, to whose iudgement it is ordered both the parties which shall pay and receiue, shall stande and abyde, concernyng the baluacion of the sayde base Testons.

Finally, her Maiestie chargeth all maner of Iustices, Mayors, Sheryffes, and other publique ministers, that haue by any maner waye iurisdiction or aucthoritie to see markets and sayres gouerned, or victualles to be reasonably assised, that they attende upon theyr offices, and preuent and stay the malicious couetousnes of any suche, as bypon this Proclamation shall seke to auauunce or inhaunce the accustomed prices of any maner of victuall, or suche other necessary thynges. And yf nede shall require, to punysh the offenders herein with spede and seueritie, and thereto to vse no delaye, as they wyll aunswere at theyr peryll.

*God saue the Quene.*

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*Cum privilegio Regie Maiestatis*